Reservation for women in the judiciary

542. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reserve one third of posts of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) to (c) The appointments of judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers and the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to the Schedule Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, minorities and women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Financial aid to High Courts

†543. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have decided to provide financial aid to do away with the infrastructural lacunae in the High Courts during current finacial year;

(b) if so, the High Courts to which financial aid is proposed to be provided by the Government alongwith the lacunae which are to be done away with and to what extent funds are proposed to be allocated;

(c) whether Government propose to provide financial aid to the newly established High Courts of newly formed States like Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand to meet their basic requirements; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 18.00 crore for construction/extension of High Court buildings and the use of information technology in High Courts during the current financial year under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary on the basis of 50% matching share by the concerned State. The amounts to be released, High Court-wise has not yet been decided. However, prioirty will be accorded to redressing the infrastructural deficiencies of the newly established High Courts of Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand.

Panel of retired Judges to clear pending cases

544. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider constituting a panel of retired Judges to preside over long pending cases in all the Central Jails in all the States on the pattern of Patna High Court Judges in Bihar;

(b) if so, by when the same would be implemented in Delhi and other States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) to (c) The Subordinate Judiciary is under the administrative control of the respective High Court under articles 234 and 235 of the Constitution. The decision is to be taken by High Courts in consultation with the respective State Governments to constitute a panel of retired Judges to preside over long pending cases in the Central Jails. At present, there is no proposal to constitute such a panel of retired Judges in Delhi.

Functioning in courts

†545. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the editorial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.